

What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



10,616 Employers



86,934 Workers



\$97,761 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in IT?

IT professionals are drivers of innovation and interact with every level of an organization's structure. The Information Technology industry has over 10,000 employers that provide jobs to 86,934 workers. Wages in this industry average \$97,761, much higher than the state average of \$51,139. Employment increased at a rate of 5.4 percent per year from 2014 to 2019, and represents 3.6 percent of all private sector employment. Missouri's IT industry overall has a lower employment concentration compared to the rest of the nation, however, some sectors within this industry have higher concentrations in the state, such as Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services and Graphic Design Services.

From Help Desk Technicians to Software Developers, there are a variety of job opportunities in the IT sector. High wages and projected growth make IT occupations a good career choice in Information Support Services and Programming and Development.

Know the Basics

Information Technology careers often involve interactions with clients and team members so good communication skills and maintaining a professional demeanor are important. With technology constantly evolving and new innovations being discovered, a willingness to learn and apply new knowledge and skills is crucial for employment success in this industry. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries, including Information Technology.

Skills needed for Success:

Information Technology also has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Knowledge of databases, applications, networks, telecommunications, and software are important in this industry. IT professionals need to be able to provide assistance and technical support to customers and clients. Ensuring products and services comply with legal and regulatory requirements and applying critical and analytical thinking to address problems are some of the skills needed for success in this industry.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Cerner Corporation

Envision

Jack Henry & Associates

Fiserv

Perficient Inc.



Information Support Services

Programming & Development

Now

Short- Term On-the-Job Training

Most Information Technology occupations require proven skills beyond a high school diploma. Some industry-recognized certifications that may launch a career in Information Technology, such as CompTIA or Microsoft Technology Associate, may be obtained in as little as three months. Occupations in the Next and Later categories require knowledge and experience using specific programming languages and skill sets.

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

Computer User Support Specialists
Entry: \$36,210; Average: \$49,740

Web Developers
Entry: \$49,260; Average: \$67,770

Degrees: Computer Support Specialist, Information Technology
Certificates: Certified A+, Network+, Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA)

Degrees: Computer Programming, Web Design & Multimedia App Development
Certificates: Certified Web Design Specialist, Certified Web Consultant, Site Development Associate

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Computer Systems Analysts
Entry: \$61,770; Average: \$83,240

Information Security Analysts
Entry: \$62,510; Average: \$86,360

Database Administrators
Entry: \$62,090; Average: \$83,600

Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology

Software Developers
Entry: \$70,450; Average: \$92,510

Computer Programmers
Entry: \$65,380; Average: \$82,080

Graphic Designers
Entry: \$35,890; Average: \$50,610

Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology, Computer Engineering

Sources:

Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2019 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2020 online job ads



This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.